

Job Title: State Natural Area Apprentice Steward

Mission: A volunteer position that will support the Wisconsin DNR by learning about and performing native plant community restoration vital to the health of rare species living on an assigned State Natural Area (SNA).

Supervision: Volunteer Steward, Regional Volunteer Coordinator

Length of Appointment: Minimum of one year, with the goal of becoming a Volunteer Steward or Co-Steward in one to three years' time.

Time Commitment: A minimum of 40 hours volunteer time, 10 hours of course training.

Key Responsibilities:

- Work closely with the experienced Volunteer Steward to learn how to perform native plant community restoration duties and develop management priorities.
- Perform native plant community restoration duties as necessary which may include but is not limited to: invasive species removal, brush removal, seed collecting, planting seed, mowing, preparing fire breaks, monitoring, etc.
- Use manual or mechanical means (brushcutters, loppers, herbicide, etc.) to remove invasive species.
- Regularly record and activities and hours as instructed by the Regional Volunteer Coordinator.
- Sign and manage appropriate forms.
- May supervise other volunteers.
- May organize and lead volunteer workdays.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications: 18 years old, interest in SNAs, able to cultivate a positive environment, able to tolerate various weather conditions and traverse on uneven terrain, dependability, ability to work independently and as a team, ability to lead a group of volunteers not needed but desired. This is a learning opportunity so a qualified person with limited plant and restoration skills is welcome.

Support: Communication with the Regional Volunteer Coordinator as needed. Training, tools, and herbicides for this position will be provided as needed.

Benefits: The Apprentice Steward will have the opportunity to work under the guidance of an experienced Volunteer Steward to learn what it takes to manage a high quality site. There are opportunities to work independently as well as with others, take on new projects, meet interesting people, and discover the unique challenges presented by restoration activities.